**Criteria D: Organization of ideas**

• Is the essay well organized and relevant to the prescribed title?

• Does the use of language assist the reader’s understanding and avoid confusion? Are central terms explained or developed clearly in a way that assists comprehension?

Note: This task is not a test of “first language” linguistic skills. No account should be taken of minor errors unless they significantly impede communication.

• When factual information is used or presented, is it accurate and, when necessary, referenced? “Factual information” includes generalizations.

• If sources have been used, have they been properly referenced in a way that allows them to be traced (Internet references must include the date on which they were accessed)?

Note: Not all essays require sources or references (see guidance in “Assessment details”).

*An essay that fails to meet the word limit of 1,200–1,600 words will not score above level 4 on this criterion*.

*An essay that has no relevance to the prescribed title will score 0 on this criterion*.

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| **Achievement level Descriptor** | **Achievement level Descriptor** |
| 0 | Level 1 is not achieved |
| 1-2 | The essay on the prescribed title is very poorly structured, with little overall organization. It is difficult to understand what the writer intends. Factual information used to support arguments may contain significant inaccuracies.  Sources of information and ideas may not be acknowledged and there is no attempt at referencing. |
| 3-4 | The essay on the prescribed title is poorly structured, with limited overall  organization. It is sometimes difficult to understand what the writer intends.  There may be some attempt to explain or explore the meaning of terms but this contributes little to conceptual clarity. Factual information used to  support arguments is not always reliable (there may be minor inaccuracies; sources of more important information may be missing or unreliable). Some sources of information and ideas are acknowledged; there is some attempt at referencing but it is not complete, nor sufficiently precise to permit tracing of sources. |
| 5-6 | The essay on the prescribed title is satisfactorily structured, with adequate overall organization. In general, concepts are used clearly: if concepts are explained, explanations are generally adequate. Factual information used to support arguments is mostly correct. Most sources of information and ideas are acknowledged; most referencing permits tracing of sources, although some precision may be lacking. The word limit has been met. |
| 7-8 | The essay on the prescribed title is well structured, with a clear overall  organization. Concepts are used or developed clearly: some explanations are included, where appropriate. Factual information used to support arguments is correct. Sources of information and ideas are acknowledged; most referencing permits tracing of sources. The word limit has been met. |
| 9-10 | The essay on the prescribed title is very well structured, with an effective  overall organization. Concepts are used clearly and, where appropriate,  refined by helpful explanations. Factual information used to support  arguments is correct. Sources of information and ideas are acknowledged;all referencing permits tracing of sources. The word limit has been met. |